Dear friends,

This is the third edition of a periodic newsletter letting you know of important updates and changes in the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB).

Please feel free to share this email with your staff or others who didn't receive it. If you would prefer to not receive these emails, or have colleagues who would like to, just let use know by emailing Steve Furness to update our list of recipients.

March 2004 NEWS from the CNDDB

1. CNDDB **Quad Viewer** is on the web.
This brand new feature, available from the Wildlife and Habitat Data Analysis Branch website (www.dfg.ca.gov/whdab) by clicking on "Quad Viewer, " allows the web user to display a **list of special status plants, animals and natural communities by USGS 7.5' quadrangle along with status information**. A list of species with unprocessed data in our "backlog" can also be shown by quadrangle, using the "Unprocessed Data" tool. In addition, there is a "nine-quad search" tool which displays a list of special status elements by quad + the 8 surrounding quads for either the CNDDB or the unprocessed data. This feature should be used when creating lists of potential species for an area. Further instructions are given on the web page. This quad viewer will be updated monthly. As always, to get the detailed occurrence level information, a subscription is still required. Subscriptions cost $300 initially and only $200 to renew.

3. The RareFind 3 CD again includes both the **point and the polygon** shapefiles.
For most analyses, the polygon layer should be used. The points are simple centroids. They are meant to be used in making small scale maps. They do NOT fully represent the extent of the polygons. For project analysis, it would be very easy to miss large areas with documented species observations by using the point layer, since some polygons are very large, particularly for a number of sensitive animals such as kit fox, desert tortoise, and others. If you need further explanation please call either Darlene McGriff (916-322-2494) or Roxanne Bittman (916-323-8970).

2. The CNDDB is using **NAD 83**!
We converted to NAD 83 as our standard datum about 8 months ago as per state policy and to match the DFG GIS Library. However, comments from users indicate there is still misunderstanding over this change. If you are trying to use the CNDDB with other themes using NAD 27, the CNDDB theme can be off by up to several hundred meters. It is important that all themes in a project are using the same datum.

3. **CNDDB training in RareFind 3**.
CNDDB staff has been providing free ½-day RareFind 3 training sessions for various agency staff in California. If your organization (agency or private firm) is interested in this training, please contact Darlene McGriff at dmcgriff@dfg.ca.gov. Please understand that our ability to provide this training depends on our current workload and your location.

Training in RareFind 3 for DFG staff is ongoing. We have been to Redding, Sacramento, Fresno, Los Alamitos, San Diego, and Chino Hills. The training that was scheduled in Bishop and Arcata has been postponed. Rescheduling depends on the availability of the Department plane. There may be additional training held at the Office of Training facility in Sacramento, if there is sufficient interest.